Social Planning Council
of Winnipeg

Annual Report
2011-2012

Creating a sustainable community that is caring, just and equitable

SPCW Annual Report

2011-2012

President's Report

The past twelve months marked another eventful and hectic year for the Board and staff of the SPCW. We have continued the hard work of addressing poverty and social exclusion on a number of fronts; from reporting on homelessness and housing, to advocating on the importance of social programs, to challenging transit fare increases.

While changing some of the ways we operate, the organization remains committed to supporting a dedicated cadre of individuals and community organizations all contributing to the social development of our city. Their capacity remains strong as they face increased demands on their services and decreased resources.

The Board has improved its governance to complete the renewal process begun more than two years ago. We have updated our by-laws, revised our vision and mission statements, and a major policy review is close to completion. Our new committee and working group structure is now fully implemented and making more efficient and effective use of our limited resources. Board members recently met with United Way representatives for a review of our activities and progress toward reaching our goals. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the United Way for its ongoing financial and continued moral support.

Our Executive Director has completed his first year, and along with a number of new board members, is contributing many valuable new ideas and perspectives. Three Board members will be completing their terms at the 2012 AGM and we will be welcoming new board members as well as a new board president. Of particular note, is that Sid Frankel and Marianne Cerilli have now completed their board terms. Both have made many significant contributions to the work of the board and to our standing committees. They will be greatly missed at board meetings

To provide leadership in improving social conditions through effective solutions, progressive public policy, community development and partnerships.

but we intend to keep them connected to the SPCW in meaningful ways.

This year completes my time as board president and is a time of personal reflection on the past five years. As I anticipated when I stepped into the president's role, there have been many challenges but also a lot of surprising rewards. Most rewarding is that we have a board, smaller than before but rich in ideas, experience, knowledge and commitment. They are committed to addressing the issues and difficulties of our community. Each is dedicated to the idea of social planning and to making our community fair and equitable for all.

I look forward to moving into the past president position while remaining closely involved with those issues that most concern me - affordable housing and municipal policies that affect the quality of life for everyone in our city.

I want to express my thanks to all my fellow board members over the past years and especially the Executive Committee with whom I have worked closely and who have supported and encouraged me in countless ways. And to the staff, Donna Downie, Christina Maes Nino and Dennis Lewycky, I can never adequately express enough thanks.

Sandra Gessler

Executive Director's Report

As a transition year for the SPCW, 2011 was chaotic, challenging and yet rewarding. For example, while the federal and provincial elections in 2011 were opportunities to discuss poverty, they were also reflections of how difficult it is to get public attention focused on poverty.

Almost 20% of Winnipeg's population continues to live in substandard conditions, dependent on government transfers and largely excluded from many of society's benefits. At the same time, all three levels of government are reducing their expenditures on housing, income assistance and other benefits to children, families and people with disabilities.

At the community level however, organizations and agencies continue to provide services and supports, to innovate and create new ways of intervening on poverty and to collaborate on program and policy initiatives. This network of diverse players is, and will continue to be, the backbone of Winnipeg's civil society.

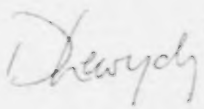
For the SPCW, working with community and community-based organizations is not new, but it is creating new challenges for the organization. We are devoting more of our time and energy to supporting front line agencies, coalitions dedicated to addressing particular needs and situation-based groups that are addressing issues facing particular sectors of our community. There have been difficulties and some disappointments in our efforts, but we continue to build the relationships needed for successful community development.

In this regard, our collaboration with organizations like Winnipeg Harvest and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives are important for us. We are also developing better ways to support coalitions like Make Poverty History and the Right to Housing Coalition. Similarly, our support of the Campaign 2000 and Red Tent national campaigns enable us to offer more support locally.

One area that we have started to feature in our advocacy revolves around city planning and policies. This year we started the City Watch Committee to follow City Hall decisions and developments. We took public positions on certain issues in order to help raise greater public awareness. We are assisting groups to tell their stories and to promote their interests at the City level. In the future, we plan to support others working at improving the physical and social infrastructure of our community.

The SPCW will continue along this path of community development, with a concentration on assuring a provision of services and supports to citizens living on a low income. To accomplish this, we will continue to respond in different organized ways, facilitating the collective action of community groups to address their issues. While we will deal with some federal issues, most of our attention will be directed at the provincial and municipal levels of government.

Overall, the organization is now well positioned to take on major initiatives as well as to respond to situational demands. The governance and administration of the organisation has stabilized and new directions have been defined by the Board. While finding program funding remains a challenge for the organization, there are indications new project funding will be available in addition to the core, much appreciated, United Way funding.



Dennis Lewycky

Strategic Planning

Over three months last year, the SPCW held a number of discussions to revise and renew the organization's vision for, and commitment to, the community life of Winnipeg. Board members, volunteers, SPCW members, community partners and staff all took part in this planning exercise.

There were different objectives for the organization to meet in this planning. The Board decided that it wanted to:

- Prepare a strategic framework or plan to help guide the SPCW advocacy for 2012-2014
- Use the planning process to strengthen the Board capacity, relations with partner agencies and improve supports for the SPCW membership, and
- Identify what is needed to implement the SPCW strategic and operational plans.

The first phase of the process focused on gathering information and consulting community partners. The second phase involved Board discussions and analysis, to define a general strategy for action for the SPCW in the next three years. A third phase of the planning took the proposed vision and mission to community partners to confirm we were on the right track.

The Strategic Directions (next page) are the result of these discussions. The revised vision and mission statements are not significantly different than what led the organization previously. The five strategic directions are not significantly different than the priorities of the organization in the past. The directions for 2012-2014 are based on a review of current conditions and needs in the community, and therefore confirm the basis for what the SPCW should contribute to Winnipeg.

Strategic Directions

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (SPCW) is a membership based, non-profit organization with a 93 year history of building the capacity of Winnipeggers to address social issues through evidence based advocacy, public education, new programs, new organizations and collaborations.

Our VISION

a sustainable community that is caring, just and equitable and which provides opportunities to all for better health and shared prosperity.

Our MISSION

to provide leadership in improving social conditions through effective solutions, progressive public policy, community development and partnerships.

Strategic Priorities

In order to achieve the above vision and mission of the organization, the SPCW will be guided by the following strategic priorities for the next three years (2012-2014). The SPCW will:

1) Provide leadership in addressing social issues, through research leading to action that fosters social justice.
2) Identify issues, draw on existing research, conduct new investigations on solutions and actively participate in dealing with community needs.
3) Help create understanding of social issues and needs based on education, information and communication related to building community.
4) Work to improve the knowledge needed in the community to deal with issues and needs that help all citizens play a meaningful role in their community.
5) Facilitate and mobilize public engagement in addressing social issues leading to improved social justice.
6) Collaborate with a cross-section of community people and organizations to mobilize public opinion and demonstrate public interest in issues facing the community.
7) Help increase and fairly distribute the wealth of society, as a basis for a caring, just and inclusive community.
8) As a fundamental requirement for community residents, the SPCW will seek to help improve incomes for Winnipeggers and assure that wealth is distributed fairly and equitably.
9) Build on the knowledge, capacity and strengths of citizens in addressing the issues that undermine community and social cohesion.
10) A key operational requirement of the strategy is to use and respect the existing human resources available in Winnipeg, in affecting change and social development.

Program Activities

The SPCW was active this year in a number of diverse ways that helped raise awareness of social issues, mobilized community action, exposed weaknesses in the delivery of social supports, and proposed ways to address the social needs of Winnipeggers. Here are the highlights:

Over 30 events (meetings, consultations, conferences, workshops) were organized.

Contracts for service with the Provincial (a bed bug study) and Federal governments (Homeless Individuals and Families Information System) were completed.

Paige King completed a major history research project, as a volunteer, to update the account of SPCW activities over the last 93 years.

In partnership with Winnipeg Harvest and Make Poverty History, the SPCW played an important role in putting poverty on the provincial election agenda.

The main SPCW Working Groups: Campaign 2000 to End Child Poverty, Bed Bug Taskforce, and City Watch, were active throughout the year. In particular, we assisted with public responses to the City's proposals for bus fare increases and golf course development.

Attention was maintained on child poverty through Campaign 2000; we produced the annual Report Card, held two consultations of stakeholders, and supported the national campaign.

We supported two studies by Harvey Stevens that exposed the inadequacies of welfare budgets.

Ken Murdock continued to volunteer to maintain organizational support for the Community Data Consortium.

The SPCW was instrumental in helping to set up Transitions Winnipeg and facilitated a new relationship between the University of Manitoba's Can U and the Boys and Girls Club's CSI Programs.

Three new projects received funding from the Winnipeg Foundation. This funding supports the Manitoba Federation of Non-Profit Organizations - Human Resource Hub, Human Rights Code training and a New Communication Media initiative.

Two written briefs were sent to the Federal Government for the 2012 budget consultations and one presentation was made to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Finance Minister. We also publicly analyzed and critiqued the provincial government budget in March, using the traditional media, and making use of social media outlets such as YouTube, Twitter and Facebook.

A major report on the Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy was written and presented in December to the two Departments responsible for the legislation.

We supported a Disabilities and Poverty Workshop with about 90 activists.

The One Night - One Nation cultural event brought together First Nations, Caribbean, Japanese, and Irish-Canadian musicians for a rousing commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

And we have started to organize community supports and resources for the removal of the CP Rail yards from Winnipeg's centre so a major green urban development can take place.

I'M VOTING
MAKE
HISTORY

Opposite page, clockwise from left top: Janet Stewart, Harold Dyck, Helen Burston and Christina Maes, Kelley Holms, Marianne Cerilli, Ray Coco Stevenson, and Sid Frankel.

This page, clockwise from left top: Donald Benham, Glenn Cochrane and Donna Downie, Sandra Gessler and David Alper, Paula Keirstead and Leah Gazan, Christina Maes, and John Harvard.

Deloitte.

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2012, and the summary statement of operations and changes in fund balances for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial statements of Social Planning Council of Winnipeg for the year ended March 31, 2012. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 5, 2012.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Social Planning Council of Winnipeg.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

Opinion
In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Social Planning Council of Winnipeg for the year ended March 31, 2012 are a fair summary of those financial statements in accordance with Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Chartered Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 5, 2012

Member de / Member of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF WINNIPEG
Summarized Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2012

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	March 31 2012	2011
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	$ 218,194	$ 289,793
Accounts receivable	46,026	31,207
Prepaid expenses	808	2,286
	$ 265,028	$ 323,286
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 40,440	$ 29,208
Current portion of deferred rent incentive	3,970	3,970
Deferred Special Projects revenue	138,740	177,622
	183,150	210,800
DEFERRED RENT INCENTIVE	7,939	11,910
	191,089	222,710
FUND BALANCES		
REVENUE STABILIZATION	60,000	60,000
TECHNOLOGY REPLACEMENT	5,000	5,000
RESEARCH	-	11,000
UNRESTRICTED	8,939	24,576
	73,939	100,576
	$ 265,028	$ 323,286

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

	March 31 2012	2011
REVENUE		
Special projects	$ 224,121	$ 374,454
United Way of Winnipeg	301,300	301,300
Affiliation fees	40	1,044
Special funding - secondment	62,705	33,162
Other	31,502	49,275
	$ 619,668	$ 759,235
EXPENSES		
Special projects	$ 224,063	$ 328,748
Salaries and wages	274,445	290,956
Office and maintenance	96,666	100,549
Administration	55,101	60,452
Amortization of free rent	(3,970)	(3,970)
	646,305	776,735
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	(26,637)	(17,500)
FUND BALANCES BEGINNING OF YEAR	100,576	118,076
FUND TRANSFERS		
RESEARCH	(11,000)	-
UNRESTRICTED	11,000	-
FUND BALANCES END OF YEAR	$ 73,939	$ 100,576

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

..... President

..... Treasurer

A complete set of financial statements and Independent Auditor's Report may be obtained from the Council.

Board of Directors

Board Members 2011-2012

Cindy Gilroy-Price	Sandra Gessler	Glenn Cochrane
Glenn Michalchuk	Darlene Prince	Harold Dyck
Paula Keirstead	Leonard Loboda	Leah Gazan
Wade Parke	Shahzad Mussadiq	John Harvard
John Silver	Marianne Cerilli	Sid Frankel

The 15 members of the Board of Directors met five times over the last year to guide the operations and governance of the organization, and the Executive Committee also met five times.

The consistently strong participation in meetings and Board activities has led to significant achievements:

- Six new Board members were elected in June making a full Board that meets the selection criteria,
- A revision of the organization's policies is underway with major changes to the By-Laws and the Human Resource Policy Manual,
- The 'Strategic Directions' for the organization were developed and approved by the Board in November,
- The Poverty Advisory Committee mandate has been revised and is undergoing a renewed commitment to supporting the Board,
- A consultant was employed and has advised the Board on how to improve its meeting practice and record keeping, and
- The organizational structure was modified to enhance Board authority while making Board member involvement more fulfilling through a set of 'Working Groups'.

Staffing and Administration

The small staff of the SPCW is often working behind the scenes to implement activities and maintain the important administration of the organization.

Over the past year:

- Donna Downie, Office Manager, continued to maintain the SPCW accounts, human resource requirements and a dozen other aspects of the organization's administration.
- Rhonda Gordon Powers, Communication Coordinator, was responsible for maintaining the organization's public contacts as well as support for Campaign 2000.
- Christina Maes Nino was hired as our Policy and Program Analyst.
- Kayla Westgate, our Receptionist, resigned to accept a position with a company.
- Helen Burston, who held down the Project Coordinator position, took over the receptionist duties mid-year and has since moved on to another organization.
- The accounting and reporting system was simplified and an annual Audit was completed without issue.
- Staff evaluations were conducted and some modifications to Job Descriptions were completed to allow a better fit between staff capacity, personal interests and organizational needs.
- Six students were placed and supported in their field of expertise - four Nursing students, and one Social Work student from the University of Manitoba, and one Administration student from Red River College.

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